

# High-Speed Rail in Utica

## Why Do We Need High-Speed Rail?

According to a recent memo from the Progressive Policy Institute:

- High-speed rail will create hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs. By some measures, every \$1 billion spent in high-speed rail construction will create 15,000 direct jobs-and tens of thousand more will grow from operating and maintaining the train system. These are jobs that cannot be outsourced.
- High-speed rail makes economic sense. The United States population will increase from 300 million to more than 390 million by mid-century. Those citizens will need transportation, and high-speed rail is cheaper to build and causes much less environmental damage than new highways and airports.
- High-speed rail has a proven record of economic development. With station stops located every 30 or 40 miles between terminals, high-speed rail has spurred growth in rural France and Spain. Fast, efficient transportation could bring similar benefits to economically depressed Main Street.
- High-speed rail is a big step toward energy independence. Present day diesel powered trains use 27 percent less energy per passenger mile than cars and 21 percent less than airplanes, according the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. If high-speed rail corridors were operated with nonpolluting electric locomotives, they could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as six billion pounds annually, according to the Center for Clean Air Policy.
- High-Speed rail is almost infinitely expansible. A double track railway, once in place, can meet heavy traffic needs with no additional capital expenditures except more trainsets. Highways and airports, on the other hand, require more lanes, and runways to accommodate greater traffic loads

The United States Department of Transportation [reported](#) that an investment in public transportation creates almost 20 percent more jobs than the same investment in building roads or highways.

## High-Speed Rail: A Benefit for Utica

- **Economic Development:** There are a number of businesses in the Utica area that rely on their business with the rail industry including Utica Mack Truck, Murphy Excavating, and Northland Communications, and will benefit from an enhanced

freight rail infrastructure.

The Griffiss Business and Technology Park, home to the Airforce Research Laboratory, and 70 other companies, employing over 5,000 people. The park is not serviced by a commercial airport, and the construction of a reliable high-speed rail infrastructure will provide significant benefit to the complex.

- **Urban Development:** From 1995-2007, Utica invested \$15 million in intercity rail transportation for passenger service, included was the Utica Metro Train Station. The city also plans to invest \$20 million in both public and private dollars in revitalizing its downtown. High-Speed Rail will only further enhance the efforts Utica is already making.
- **Environmental/Energy:** Carbon emissions per passenger mile traveled are significantly lower for passenger rail versus an automobile or airplane